internationally accepted convention, no accidents have occurred in the Indian Nuclear Power Plants.

(c) While, as mentioned above, there have been no radiation related accidents, the total number of deaths due to industrial accidents among regular workers from all the nuclear plants and facilities was 56 during the thirty-one year period from 1963—1993. None of the deaths was in any way related to radiation exposure or radioactive releases. These deaths were from among workers in nuclear power plants, uranium mine, mill, fuel fabrication facilities and heavy water plants located at different sites in the country. The data from 1956 to 1962 are not available.

The number of fatalities from among the contract workers for the sixteen year period from 1978—1993 is 73. These deaths are also in no way related to radiation exposure or radioactive releases.

In general the fatalities were due to fall from height injury due to getting hit by objects, burns, electric shock asphyxiation, etc.

Indian Drugs

3061. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian drugs are the cheapest in the world, if so, what is the price of Indian Life Saving Drugs comparable to that of developed countries including the USA;

(b) whether in the past Government was opposed to patenting the drugs, plants and seeds, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number and percentage of drugs under controlled price when the prices were fixed last, what was the margin of profit permitted to manufacturers at that time and whether input cost have gone up, if so, how much: and

(d) whether the price control is being flouted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No such international comparison has been made by the Governments.

(b) The grant of patents are governed by the provisions of the Patent Act 1970.

(c) and (d) The details are contained in the Drugs (Prices Control) Order 1987 (DPCO). The fixation/revision of prices is governed by the provisions of the DPCO. In cases involving violation of the DPCO, appropriate action is taken by the concerned State Government under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act.

Expenditure of Department of Fertilizers

3062. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been heavy expenditure on items like office espenses, overtime allowance, travelling expenses, consumption of petrol/fuel etc. in the Ministry, Public Sector Undertakings and other organisations under the administrative control of the Department of Fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, under office expenses, overtime allowance, travelling expenses, consumption of petrol/fuel giving separate figures-office/PSU/ organisationwise; and

(c) the steps taken to effect economy measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The expenditure has remained within budgetary limits. Instructions have been issued by the Government to restrict expenditure on items such as entertainment, consumption of petrol/ diesel, electricity, overtime allowance, telephone and travelling. These are being adhered to by the Ministry and the PSUs/ organisations under the administrative control of the Department of Fertilizers.